

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/801,617

Examiner

Jeremy S. Cerullo

Applicant(s)

NORDEN, HAHN VO

Art Unit

2112

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on 8 February 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6, 8, 11-18, 20 and 22-25.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                    |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|   | 9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>PTO-413B</u> .                         |

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Alan Christenson on 27 April 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 should appear as:

1. A system, comprising:  
a plurality of electronic devices adapted to send and receive data, wherein  
each electronic device uses any one of a plurality of communication  
protocols; and  
a switch comprising a plurality of ports, each port is adapted to couple to  
an electronic device, wherein each port is configurable for use  
according to the protocol used by the electronic device coupled  
thereto,  
wherein each port comprises a plurality of protocol converters, each  
protocol converter being associated with a separate data path, and

wherein the switch comprises logic that selects a protocol converter and a data path for each port.

Claim 15 should appear as:

15. The switch of claim 8 wherein each port comprises a serializer/deserializer coupled to at least one of the protocol converters, the serializer/deserializer converts data from a serial data path to a parallel data path and vice versa.

Claim 20 should appear as:

20. The method of claim 16 wherein said selecting is automated.

Claim 22 should appear as:

22. A system, comprising:
  - a plurality of electronic devices adapted to send and receive data, each device using any one of a plurality of communication protocols;
  - a switch comprising a plurality of ports, each port adapted to couple to one of the plurality of electronic devices, the switch comprises also a crossbar coupled to the ports, wherein each port comprises:
    - means for receiving data according to any of the plurality of

Art Unit: 2112

communication protocols;  
means for converting the communication protocol of the  
received data to a crossbar protocol;  
means for converting data from the crossbar protocol to any  
of the plurality of communication protocols; and  
means for selecting one of a plurality of protocol converters  
and data paths for use with the electronic device  
coupled thereto.

Cancel Claim 26.

### **Reasons for Allowance**

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
3. Claim 1 is considered to be allowable, particularly due to the limitations that each port has a plurality of protocol converters, each associated with a different path and that each port comprises logic for selecting a protocol converter and a data path according to configuration data. These limitations, when considered with the rest of the claim, distinguish the invention from the prior art of record.
4. Claims 2-6 are considered to be allowable based on their dependency upon Claim 1.
5. Claim 8 is considered to be allowable, particularly due to the limitations that each port has a plurality of protocol converters, each associated with a different path and that each port comprises logic for selecting a protocol converter and a data path according to configuration data. These limitations, when considered with the rest of the claim, distinguish the invention from the prior art of record.
6. Claims 11-15 are considered to be allowable based on their dependency upon Claim 8.
7. Claim 16 is considered to be allowable, particularly due to the limitations that each port has a plurality of protocol converters, each associated with a different path

Art Unit: 2112

and that each port comprises logic for selecting a protocol converter and a data wherein the selecting is user controlled. These limitations, when considered with the rest of the claim, distinguish the invention from the prior art of record.

8. Claims 17-18 and 20 are considered to be allowable based on their dependency upon Claim 16.

9. Claim 22 is considered to be allowable, particularly due to the limitation that each port comprises means for selecting one of a plurality of protocol converters and an associated data path. This limitation, when considered with the rest of the claim, distinguishes the invention from the prior art of record.

10. Claims 23-25 are considered to be allowable based on their dependency upon Claim 22.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeremy S. Cerullo whose telephone number is (571) 272-3634. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, 8:00-4:00; Alternate Fridays.

Art Unit: 2112

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rehana Perveen can be reached on (571) 272-3676. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
JSC

  
REHANA PERVEEN  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
4/28/06